6/25/72

Dear Howard,

As I am sure you can realize, these are more than usually diffuclt days for us for a combination of reasons. One is that just as the kind of Stink Cyril can make could create an interest in PM, so adverse reaction could have the opposite effect. Like his Long John performance, which I think unlikely if Sylvia spoke to him once about it. And the use of th. death certificate could have a very chilling effect on that enormous amount of work, most of the rest of which is, I think indispensible to the complete record and the more complete understanding of what did and did not happen.

But these are not the things that were on my mind as I shaved. One is a minor, one-time inaccuracy, that your folks are the only ones who considered that even the slight cost of food is diffuclt for us or who want to carry their own weight. When Walter and I went to the grocery store Saturday morning, the morning you left, we got groceries for the weekend and for the baby. He paid the small bill. And when Mary was here a year and a half ago, she insisteded on generosity. I had driven 200 miles to get and return her and she spent a weekend here. She insisted on paying. My last trip to Dallas was at the request of a radical-right multi-millionaire buff Arch Kimbrough. He, Mary and another wealthy and even farthur-right woman, Sue Fitch, have always worked together. Sue had been much against me from the rightist propaganda, but she changed her mind after meeting me and even drive me around in her new Caddy once in a rainstorm. I wanted her to share with me the archive I was then opening, Storey's, but she said her presence would turn him off and didn't. Arch had been desparately sick. When he recovered he suddenly told Mary, "Harold is the only one really doing work. We should see about working with him." Mary told him I'd require my expenses because out financial situation was desparate. He agree, only to back out on it. However, I then also made a pseech in Wisconsion, so while I had no net return, I also was not out of pocket. For wasting three nights for me when I could have worked, Arch treated me to a $5.00 dinner, his total contribution, and I'm sure it made him feel generous. Mary's estimate of his current worth is $50,000,000. She says he has already established $5,000,000 trust funds for each of his three daughters. She had hoped he'd pay for the printing of PM. In any event, Buck and Mary went far out of their way when I was there, in every way. Besides putting me up and feeding me, Mary drove me into town each morning as she went to work. Each day I'd meet her at her office and not have to take the bus back. One day she was sick, Buck offered to come and get me, but I took the bus. The morning I went to Parkland, Buck was off. He insisted on driving me there. Another right-wing friend picked me up there, took me to the Texas Club, and we drank and chatted for several hours. I presume you have seen my notes. So, in this are, what it boils down to is that except for a few personal friends who are interested and have limited means, the rich ones cost, do not help (example, the Hutton & Co. partner getting me to abandon WWII to go to Calif to get Liebeler off their and -ane's back and sticking me with the cost) but those not rich can be thoughtful and, in small ways, helpful.

I have also been troubled but what you may now regard as an accidental embarrassment to you, the consequence of your failing to tell me to keep what you said about the dirty-work in confidence. While I would not have argued with you about your course of personal action, on this I would. I would because it was wrong, for both of us. You'd later be both sorry and ashamed, feel that you were personally part of wrong-doing. Accessort After the Fact, so to speak. It need not embarrass you now and if it does when you get together with others, it gives you a new measure of them. A rough equivalent is seeing a crime committed and maintaining silence. You will recall I told you Ted was swearing everyone to confidence only to make each part of his evil. He didn't have to say anything to anyone and nothing he did say advanced his evil in any way. He merely made each part. I will not give you words to use, merely a suggestion. Stand on principle if anyone complains. There is a difference between right and wrong. Gary and Jerry both knew this. Even Sylvia knew that Gary has done no work in years and had to have gotten this from another source. With her fine intelligence, I am sure she knew from the beginning or at least suspected that it had to be one of no more than two. So, don t be on the defensive. You did do the right thing. Let those who did not defend themselves, if there is a dispute.Hastily,